



# Check is in the Mail

by FIDE Master Alex Dunne

## You've Got Mail!

The first e-mail United States Correspondence Chess Championship has ended in a tie between ICCGM Ian Brooks, top-rated at 2615 and Richard Fleming, unrated at the beginning of the tournament. This odd couple will now share the title.

Richard Fleming is a philosophy professor at Bucknell University. Currently on sabbatical leave, he is playing in the VII Pan Am Tourney and has started his games in the semifinals of the World Championship.

Ian Brooks, 37, grew up in England, but has lived the last 16 years in the US. He is a computational biophysicist, married and father of twins, and an International Correspondence Chess Grandmaster. Ian noted in an interview in CCLA's *The Chess Correspondent*, he especially wanted the title of US Champion as it is one that his kids can relate to.

### GAME OF THE MONTH

The battle seems to be going along quietly when suddenly GM Ian Brooks demonstrates why he has those two consonants in front of his name. Ian rates this game as his best from the tournament.

#### ENGLISH-DUTCH [A10]

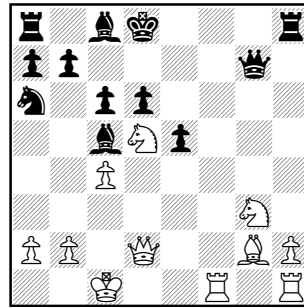
W: GM Ian Brooks (2615)  
B: G. Robert Arnold (2246)  
*1st E-mail US Correspondence Chess Championship 2002*

**1 c4 f5 2 Nc3 Nf6 3 e4!?** Brooks scored two points in the finals with this unusual gambit.

**3 ...fxe4 4 d3 e5** Frank Niro immediately accepted the gambit, got a good game, but eventually lost after **4...exd3 5 Bxd3 Nc6 6 Bg5?!** (Brooks' punctuation marks).

**5 g4 h6 6 g5 hxg5 7 Bxg5 Bb4 8 Nge2 d6 9 Bg2 Qd7 10 Bxf6 exd3 11 Qxd3 gxf6 12 0-0-0** Black has his pawn and sounder pawn structure. White has development and white squares.

**12...Na6 13 Nd5 Qf7 14 f4 Bc5 15 fxe5 fxe5 16 Ng3 Qg7 17 Rdf1 Kd8 18 Qd2 c6** (diagram)



after 18...c6

**19 Rf7!? Qg8?** Brooks gives the following line where Black keeps a slight edge: **19...Qxf7 20 Qg5+ Kd7 21 Rf1 Be3+ 22 Nxe3 Qg8 23 Qf6 Nc5 24 Rd1 Qf8 25 Qxe5 Kc7 26 Rxd6.**

**20 Rhf1 cxd5 21 Bxd5 Bb4 22 Qe3 Qg4 23 Ne4 Bc5 24 Qd2** and with the White pieces encircling the board, and a piece minus, White stands better. **24...Rb8 25 a3 Bd4 26 R1f6 Nc5 27 Rxd6+ Nd7 28 Kb1 b5 29 Qb4 Rb6 30 Rxb6 1-0**

Even at the end, the depth of Brooks' attack isn't immediately apparent. White wins after **30...axb7 31 Qe7+ Kc7 32 Qd6+ Kd8 33 Ng5 Qxg5 34 Bc6 Qg4 35 Bxd7 Bxd7 36 Qb8+ Bc8 37 Qc7+ Ke8 38 Qe7#.**

World Champion Tunc Hamarat had this to say recently on The Correspondence Chess Message Board (<http://www.correspondencechess.com/bbs/>): All the people around me are asking why I am still working! I should be earning so much money because of cc! They ask

how much money I earn because of interviews, etc., etc. I never gave so many interviews than in the last three weeks, nearly every day (and still continuing) from chess people and those not really knowing what chess is. I was on television and radio. The funny side is I always invited them to eat or to coffee. I even bought a book from one of them (a very interesting work that had nothing to do with chess). So my friends, if you try to be World Champion to get rich, I can say find another idea; this one will not work. What I can say in summation is that I am happy with my behavior (to be not materialistic) because this is the direction of my philosophy of life.

Jack Sarhage (Piscataway, NJ) asks, "CC rules say a chess-playing computer is not allowed, but a database is. A position can be set up on a computer to come up with a move. Can't that be done with a database?" The difference is that a database is similar to a book: The moves have been played before in that position. A move-generating computer comes up with an original move, and is therefore banned domestically.

Steve Whiteman (Atlanta, GA) has started his first USCF cc section and notes he is discovering that with all the extra time he can now blunder at a much higher level than at OTB!

Draws often don't receive the appreciation they deserve. This game can be summed up in two words: Great draw!

#### RUY LOPEZ [C88]

W: Dan Fleetwood  
B: GM Stephan Busemann (2615)  
*14 Olympiad Final 2003*

**1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 0-0 Be7 6 Re1 b5 7 Bb3 0-0 8 c3 d6 9 h3 Bb7 10 d4 Re8 11 Nbd2 Bf8 12 a4 h6 13 Bc2 exd4 14 cxd4 Nb4 15 Bb1 c5 16 d5 Nd7 17 Ra3 c4 18 axb5 axb5 19 Nd4 Qb6 20 Nf5 Ne5 21 Rg3 g6 22 Nf3 Ned3 23 Be3 Qd8 24 Bxh6 Qf6 25 Qd2 Nxe1 26 Bxf8 Nxf3+ 27 Rxf3 gxf5 28 Rxf5 Qg6 29 Rg5 Qxg5 30 Qxg5+ Kxf8 31 Qh6+ Kg8 32 Kh2 Ra1 33 Qxd6 Rxb1 34 Qxb4 Rxe4 35 Qxb5 c3 36 Qxb7 Kg7 37 Qb3 cxb2 38 Kg3 Re2 39 d6 Rf1 40 d7 R1xf2 41 d8(Q) Rxg2+ 42 Kh4 1/2-1/2**

US Champion Craig Jones shows why he ranks among the best postal tacticians with this slash and burn game.

### 1<sup>ST</sup> E-MAIL US CORRESPONDENCE CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Ian Brooks	X	1/2	1/2	1	1/2	0	1	1	1	1 1	7 1/2
Richard Fleming	1/2	X	1	1/2	0	1	1	1	1/2	1 1	7 1/2
Keith Rodriguez	1/2	0	X	1	1/2	1/2	1/2	1	1	1/2 1/2	6
Robert Arnold	0	1/2	0	X	1/2	1	1/2	1	1	1/2 1	6
Michael Mazock	1/2	1	1/2	1/2	X	1/2	0	1/2	1/2	1 1	6
Edgardo Limayo	1	0	1/2	0	1/2	X	1/2	1	1	1/2 1/2	5 1/2
Richard Title	0	0	1/2	1/2	1	1/2	X	0	1/2	1/2 1	4 1/2
Russell Black	0	0	0	0	1/2	0	1	X	1/2	1/2 1	3 1/2
Dennis Dunn	0	1/2	0	0	1/2	0	1/2	1/2	X	1/2 1	3 1/2
Patrick Ryan	0	0	1/2	1/2	0	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	X 1/2	3 1/2
T. Szafranski	0	0	1/2	0	0	1/2	0	0	0	1/2 X	1 1/2

**SICILIAN DEFENSE** [B92]

W: IM Craig Jones (2434)  
 B: SM Jorge Aldrete (2526)  
*IX North American Invitational 2000*

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4  
 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Be2 e5 7 Nb3 Be7 8 0-0  
 0-0 9 Kh1 Qc7 10 f4 b5 11 a4 b4 12  
 Nd5 Nxd5 13 exd5 Bb7 14 fxe5 dxe5  
 15 c4 bxc3 16 bxc3 Qxc3 17 Rb1 Bd6  
 18 Na5 Qxa5 19 Rxb7 f5 20 Qb3 f4 21  
 Ba3 Qd8 22 Qh3 Rf6 23 Bd3 Rh6 24  
 Qg4 Bf8 25 Bxf8 1-0

US Co-champion Richard Fleming demonstrates the power of the mad queen.

**PIRC'S DEFENSE** [B07]

W: Richard Fleming (2505)  
 B: IM James Skeels (2401)  
*1st E-mail US Correspondence Chess  
 Championship 2000*

1 d4 d6 2 e4 Nf6 3 Nc3 c6 4 f4 Qa5  
 5 Bd3 e5 6 Nf3 Bg4 7 Be3 Nbd7 8 Qd2  
 Be7 9 0-0 Bxf3 10 Rxf3 Ng4 11 Ne2 Qb6  
 12 c3 Ndf6 13 Kh1 Nxe3 14 Rxe3 0-0-0  
 15 a4 Qc7 16 b4 exf4 17 Nxf4 g5 18  
 Ne2 Ng4 19 Rf3 f6 20 d5 c5 21 Rff1 h5  
 22 Ng3 Ne5 23 Nf5 Bf8 24 Be2 h4 25  
 Rab1 g4 26 Qf4 g3 27 h3 Qh7 28 bxc5  
 dxc5 29 Rb5 Kb8 30 Rfb1 Bd6 31 a5  
 Ka8 32 Rxb7 Qxb7 33 Rxb7 Kxb7 34  
 Nxh4 Nd3 35 Qxf6 Nf2+ 36 Kg1 Nxe4 37  
 Qg7+ Be7 38 Nf5 Rhg8 39 Qh6 Nd6 40  
 a6+ Kb8 41 Ne7 Rde8 42 Nxg8 Rxe2 43  
 Kf1 1-0

## CORRESPONDENCE CHESS TOURNAMENT UPDATES FOR FEBRUARY 2004

**MASTERS CERTIFICATE WINNERS**

Javy R. Gwaltney II 2200  
 Henry Ceeto 2000

**EXPRESS TOURNAMENT****1ST & 2ND PLACE WINNERS**

David M. Ballard 03ET7 5½-½  
 Brian Stewart 03ET7 5-1

**TROPHY QUAD WINNERS**

Randy C. Crawford 03QD6 6-0  
 Peter Swan 03QM1 6-0  
 Marshall Whitecotton 02QC4 6-0  
 Christopher M. Farmer 03QD9 4-2  
 Edward S. Dockery 03QD9 4-2  
 Michael F. Donnelly 03QD9 4-2

**JOHN COLLINS MEMORIAL****CLASS TOURNAMENT WINNERS**

James R. McNanama 02CBC34 5½-½  
 Christopher S. Braider 02CAB60 6-0  
 Steve Douglas 03CD44 6-0  
 Alexander Fontana 02CAB1 5½-½  
 James Rhodes 02CAB40 6-0  
 David A. Brownstein 02CB78 6-0  
 Peter Swan 02CM61 6-0  
 John Buhalo 02CA81 5-1  
 Robert G. Foss 02CM31 5-1  
 Dr. Frank Siewerdt 02CAB4 5-1  
 Kent Wallace 02CCD59 6-0

**CORRESPONDENCE CHESS PLAYERS**

are invited to send their comments, questions and correspondence games (with or without annotation). Because of the volume of mail, submissions cannot be returned, and personal replies are not possible. Send your letters to: Alex Dunne, *Chess Life*, 3054 US Route 9W, New Windsor, NY 12553 or e-mail: alex.dunne@cqservices.com

**POSTAL BEAUTY CONTEST**

Is it right that beauty is so often only its own reward? Surely not! And thanks to the generosity of Dr. Ronald Hames, the scales of justice have become more evenly balanced between how one wins and the hard fact of victory. For now in *Chess Life* the players who conduct scintillating games will receive the Hames Correspondence Game of the Year Awards. Resident postal editor Alex Dunne is the judge of a contest with prizes of \$100 for the best game by a master and \$100 for the best game by a non-master to appear in Check is in the Mail during a given year. What better reason, then, to send your postal brilliancies to Alex Dunne?

**CHECK OUT USCF'S CORRESPONDENCE CHESS RATED EVENTS****USCF's 57th ANNUAL**

2004 Open Correspondence Chess Golden Knights Championship

**\$1,500 First Prize**

(plus title of USCF's Golden Knights Champion and plaque)

• 2nd place \$800 • 3rd place \$600 • 4th place \$400 • 5th place \$200 • 6th thru 10th place \$100 each. **Entry fee: \$25.**

**The entry deadline is November 30, 2004.**

These USCF Correspondence Chess events are rated and open to all USCF members who reside on the North American continent, islands, or Hawaii, as well as those USCF members with an APO or FPO address. USCF members who reside outside of the North American continent are welcome to participate in e-mail events. Your USCF membership must remain current for the duration of the event, and entry fees must be paid in U.S. dollars. Those new to USCF Correspondence Chess, please estimate your strength: **Class A:** 1800-1999 (very strong); **Class B:** 1600-1799 (strong); **Class C:** 1400-1599 (intermediate); **Class D:** 1399 and below (beginner level). **Note:** Prize fund guaranteed (based on 400 entries) and will be increased or decreased proportionately per number of entries assigned.

**CORRESPONDENCE CHESS MATCHES (TWO PLAYERS)**

**\$5 entry fee per person** with two, four or six game options.

**WIN A CORRESPONDENCE CHESS TROPHY**

Four-player, double round-robin with class-level pairings. 1st place winner receives a trophy. **Entry fee: \$10.**

**VICTOR PALCIAUSKAS PRIZE TOURNAMENTS**

Seven-player class-level pairings, one game with each of six opponents. Players must have a USCF CC rating to enter. 1st-place winner receives \$130 cash prize and a certificate signed by Victor Palciauskas. **Entry fee: \$25.**

**JOHN W. COLLINS MEMORIAL CLASS TOURNAMENTS**

Four-player, double round-robin with class-level pairings (unrateds welcome). 1st-place winner receives a John W. Collins certificate. **Entry fee: \$7.**

**E-MAIL RATED EVENTS (NEED E-MAIL ACCESS):**

**LIGHTNING MATCH** Two players with two, four or six game option. **Entry fee \$5 per person.**

**Swift Quads** Four-player, double round-robin format. 1st-place prize merchandise credit of \$30. **Entry fee: \$10.**

**Express Tournament**

Seven-player events, one game with each of six opponents. Prizes: **1st place** \$30 merchandise credit, **2nd place** \$20 credit. **Entry fee: \$15.**

**Please circle event(s) selected.**



U.S. Chess Federation  
[www.uschess.org](http://www.uschess.org)

**USCF's 1st ANNUAL**

2004 E-mail Correspondence Chess

Electronic Knights Championship

(Seven-player sections, one game with each of six opponents.)

**\$1,500 First Prize**

(plus title of USCF's Electronic Knights Champion and plaque)

• 2nd place \$800 • 3rd place \$600 • 4th place \$400 • 5th place \$200 • 6th thru 10th place \$100 each. **Entry fee: \$25.**

**The entry deadline is November 30, 2004.**

These USCF Correspondence Chess event is rated and open to all USCF members with e-mail access. Your USCF membership must remain current for the duration of the event, and entry fees must be paid in U.S. dollars. Maximum number of tournament entries allowed for the year for each player are ten.

**Note:** Prize fund guaranteed (based on 400 entries) and will be increased or decreased proportionately per number of entries assigned.

**NOTE:** Except for Lightning Matches, Swift Quads and Express Tournaments, players will use post office mail, unless opponents agree to use e-mail.

**TO ENTER: 800-388-KING (5464) FAX 845-561-CHES (2437)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 USCF ID# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit card # (VISA, MC, Discover, AMEX) \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_  
 If using VISA, need V-code \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you do not wish to have an opponent who is incarcerated.  
 Sending a check? Make it payable to U.S. Chess and mail to: 3054 US Rt. 9W, New Windsor, NY 12553